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SOURCE Przyjaciolka.ELECTION OF BLOCK COMMITTEES IN POLAND

Block committees are now being elected throughout Poland.

The majority of citizens are not familiar with the role and the activities of block committees because up to now they have not been organized everywhere. Now, block committees will be organized in all cities.

A block committee's activities take in a group of buildings, or streets, or parts of a street, of not more than 1,000 residents. The present block circles and area circles of the Liga Kobiet (Women's League) ought to cover the same area and the same activities as the block committees.

A block committee consists of five to seven residents chosen for the term of one year. The election meeting is open to all residents 18 years old and over. The Liga Kobiet should see that several of the public-spirited women are elected to each block committee.

Information on the activities of block committees and voting procedure may be obtained by the administrations of block circles from the present block committees or the people's council presidiums. It should be discussed in detail at the next meeting of the members. It will be found that the activities of block committees are not new to the members and are more or less the same as those of the Liga Kobiet. According to instructions, the duties of the block committee include interest in the sanitation and cleanliness of its area, collection of usable scrap, placing children of working mothers in nurseries and kindergartens, all forms of neighborhood assistance, organization of cultural and educational activities through group attendance at cinemas and theatres and attendance at libraries and reading rooms, assistance in public control of the proper functioning of stores and services, interest in the use of dwellings, etc.

These matters are not new to the Liga Kobiet; therefore, work in the block committees will be no additional responsibility. The administrations of the circles, however, will have to work out a plan with the block committees

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which will assure women the greatest possible participation in all block activities. Each member ought to be responsible for some concrete job, no matter how small.

The employment of women should receive special attention. Housewives should be persuaded to take up some outside profession or trade, and should be assured of peaceful working conditions.

Close cooperation of the Liga Kobiet with block committees ought to raise the cultural level of the residents, to improve living conditions, and to promote active participation in political and social life. This will be achieved by dogged and patient work, by educating neighbors, by inculcating respect for public property, and by teaching community living. Members of the Liga Kobiet ought to achieve this not only by patient and systematic work but also by their own good example.

The fact that election of block committees is now being held in all cities may signify that surveillance over the population is being tightened.

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